

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) A method for at least one of electronically encoding, decoding and transmitting location information of objects for a map, the method comprising:

at least one of electronically encoding, decoding and transmitting location information of [[a]] an electronic data packet, the location information including locating information and description information, wherein the data packet separately contains the locating information and the description information, and includes assignment information for assigning at least a part of the locating information to at least a part of the description information.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the locating information includes at least one first coordinate chain that includes at least one first point.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the at least one first coordinate chain contains a second point, the at least one first point of the at least one first coordinate chain is specified in absolute coordinates and the second point of the at least one first coordinate chain is specified in relative coordinates, with respect to one of a centroid coordinate and the at least one first point of the at least one first coordinate chain.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one first point of the at least one first coordinate chain is interpreted in a defined direction by the second point of the at least one first coordinate chain.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the description information includes at least one first attribute field.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the at least one first attribute field includes a type specification and description data, and the description data is determined by the type specification with respect to at least one of a name, an accuracy, a direction, a time, a point of interest and a physical link.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the assignment information includes at least one first assignment entry, and the at least one first attribute field and the at

least one first point of the at least one first coordinate chain are assigned to each other by the at least one first assignment entry.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one first assignment entry includes a reference to the at least one first attribute field and a reference to the at least one first point of the at least one first coordinate chain.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one first assignment entry includes one of (i) a reference to the at least one first attribute field and a reference to a plurality of points of coordinate chains of the locating information, and (ii) a reference to a plurality of attribute fields and a reference to the at least one first point of the at least one first coordinate chain.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the data packet includes a header part of the location information and a data part of the location information.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the header part includes structure information specifying a data structure of the location information, and includes interpreting instructions specifying a purpose of the location information.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of formatting data for at least one of electronically encoding, decoding and transmitting location information of objects for a map, the method comprising:

providing [[a]] an electronic data packet including location information that includes locating information and description information, wherein the data packet separately contains the locating information and the description information and includes assignment information for assigning at least a part of the locating information to at least a part of the description information.

31. (Currently Amended) An electronic encoding device for encoding location information of objects for a map, the encoding device comprising:

an arrangement to electronically encode location information of a data packet, the location information including locating information and description information, wherein the data packet separately contains the locating information and the description information, and includes assignment information for assigning at least a part of the locating information to at least a part of the description information.

32. (Previously Presented) The encoding device of claim 31, wherein the locating information includes at least one first coordinate chain that includes at least one first point, and a definition of the at least one first point of the at least one first coordinate chain is definable as a function of a location information query.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ An electronic decoding device for decoding location information of objects for a map, the decoding device comprising:

an arrangement to electronically decode location information of ~~[[a]]~~ an electronic data packet, the location information including locating information and description information, wherein the data packet separately contains the locating information and the description information, and includes assignment information for assigning at least a part of the locating information to at least a part of the description information.

34. (Previously Presented) The decoding device of claim 33, wherein the location information is at least partially correlatable with data of a first data base associated with the decoding device.

35. (Previously Presented) The decoding device of claim 34, wherein at least one of location information that is not contained in the first data base and location information that is not correlated with data of the first data base is stored in a second data base associated with the decoding device.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ An electronic system for encoding, decoding and transmitting location information, the system comprising:

an arrangement to electronically encode, decode and transmit location information of ~~[[a]]~~ an electronic data packet, the location information including locating information and description information, wherein the data packet separately contains the locating information and the description information and includes assignment information for assigning at least a part of the locating information to at least a part of the description information.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the at least one first point includes a geographical point.